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A History of the National Capital. By Wilhelmus Bogart Bryan. Vol. ii. 1815-1878. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1916. Pp. 707.

Much information of historical interest is packed into this volume and while there may be some doubt as to the wisdom exercised in the arrangement of the material, the ample index will usually assist the reader in finding what he is looking for. As an illustration of the variety of the matter handled may be cited, Chapter III which bears the heading "Proposed Inaugural Change." After a discussion of the proposal to have the oath of office administered to the President on Monday, the fifth of March, and an account of the inaugural program the remainder of the chapter is given over to the following subjects: Hotels and Hotel Business, Preliminary to the Peggy O'Neale Affair, Preference Shown for Boarding-House Life, The City a National Interest, Lack of a Water Supply System, Increase in Number of Government Clerks, Two New Department Buildings, Department Hours and Able Men in Clerical Positions. The book is full of numberless interestingly narrated details, concerning sculpture and taxation, sanitation and duelling, slavery and canals and railroads, schools and orphan asylums, newspapers and hospitals, public debt and politics.

An episode in the history of Washington which will present a familiar appearance to readers of this magazine is that of the Know Nothing administration of the city government from 1854 to 1856. Early in 1854, the Know Nothing fever had broken out to such an extent that a gang of men went to the Washington monument in the middle of the night, shut the watchman in his watchbox and removed from a shed where it was stored a block of marble which had been presented by the Pope to be placed in the Monument. The marble was broken into pieces and thrown into the river. Later in the year, when the Know Nothings were successful at the polls, they followed the political usage of the day in making a clean sweep of the municipal offices. They went farther than was customary in this regard, however, for they changed a majority of the members of the school board in order to get in control. Somewhat later they made a raid on the Washington Monument Society through the device of buying up a considerable number of dollar memberships in the society and calling an irregular and unauthorized

meeting of the society at which Know Nothings were in the majority. A new board of managers was elected and the dispossessed board protested in vain against the irregularity. In the election of 1856, Democrats, Free Soilers and Republicans united against the Know Nothings and elected their mayor by a majority of thirteen out of a total vote of 5,841. The city council, however, remained in the hands of the Know Nothings. The next year a city election was being held to fill certain offices, when fourteen plug-uglies from Baltimore followed by the disorderly element from Washington took control of one of the polling places and refused to permit the anti-Know Nothings to vote. There was no militia organization and the mayor of the city called upon the President for soldiers. A hundred and ten soldiers were sent to the polling place and the demand was made that the polls be opened. The Know Nothing crowd answered by throwing stones at the soldiers and firing pistol shots. Thereupon the soldiers were ordered to fire and seven men in the crowd were killed and twenty-one were wounded. In the election the anti-Know Nothing ticket was successful.

The author has drawn his materials copiously from contemporary newspapers and government reports and presents them in an entertaining, gossipy style which prevents the multitude of details with which every page abounds from depressing the reader.

The Swedes in America, 1638-1900. By Amandus Johnson, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: The Lenapé Press, 1914. Vol. i. Pp. 391.

This volume, we are informed in the preface, was prepared to meet the demand for a popular edition of the author's "The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware," of which it is an abridgment. Vol. i has the sub-title "The Swedes on the Delaware" and covers the period 1638-1664.

The first three chapters give the European background to Swedish settlement in America. They treat of the political and social conditions in Sweden and give an account of the place of Sweden in the Europe of the seventeenth century. Naturally an important place in the story is assigned to the Dutch enterprisers who were the principal actors in the establishment of the Swedish colony. Following an account of the social and economic